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1. (Twice Amended) A gravity hinge consisting essentially of:
an upper cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface oblique to the axis of said upper knuckle;
a lower cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface
wherein said first terminating surface of said lower cylindrical knuckle is oblique to the axis of said lower knuckle and is at the same angle as said second surface of said upper knuckle;
an oblique bushing separating said upper and lower knuckles, said bushing having the same angle as said second terminating surface of said upper knuckle and said first terminating surface of said lower knuckle; and
a spindle received by at least one of said knuckles and said bushing, wherein said spindle establishes rotating communication between said upper and lower knuckles and allows said upper knuckle to be lifted off said bushing;
wherein said bushing has a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other and wherein said bushing and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position.

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17. (Twice Amended) A gravity hinge consisting essentially of:
an upper cylindrical knuckle having a terminating surface that is oblique to the vertical axis of said upper knuckle;
a lower cylindrical knuckle having a terminating surface that is oblique to the vertical axis of said lower knuckle and at substantially the same angle as said upper knuckle terminating surface;
a spindle for rotatably engaging said upper knuckle with said lower knuckle and allowing said upper knuckle to be lifted off said lower knuckles; and

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an oblique self-lubricating friction reducer surrounding said spindle and physically separating said knuckles wherein said self-lubricating friction reducer and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position.

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33. (Amended) A gravity gate consisting essentially of:

a static structure;

a lower cylindrical knuckle attached to said static structure, said lower knuckle having a first terminating surface oblique to the axis of said lower knuckle and an opposing second terminating surface;

an upper cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface oblique to the axis of said upper knuckle at the same angle as said first surface of said lower knuckle;

a spindle for rotatably engaging said upper knuckle with said lower knuckle such that said oblique terminating surfaces of each knuckle are proximate to each other;

a bushing surrounding said spindle and separating said upper and lower knuckles, said bushing having a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other, wherein said bushing and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position; and

a frame member attached to said upper knuckle.

REMARKS

The Office rejects the independent claims (Claims 1, 17, and 32) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in light of three references. The first combination is JP '767 and Suska (U.S. Patent 3,921,225). The second combination is JP '767 and Rhodes (U.S. Patent 4,697,306). Applicant respectfully traverses the Office's rejections on the grounds that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the structure